Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Friday 05 Feb 2021 until 23:59 on Saturday 06 Feb 2021

Forecast Issued on Friday 05 Feb 2021 at 01:40

Confidence: High for an increasing cold spell through the forecast period with occasional snow or snow showers and easterly winds, although somewhat lower for cloud and snow amounts.

Headline for Friday 05 Feb 2021: Patchy snow in south and east, brighter in northwest. Strong, cold easterly winds.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 05 Feb 2021

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Medium Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Fog	Fog	Mist	Sleet	Sleet	Fog
Precipitation probability					
30%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%

Forecast for Friday 05 Feb 2021

Weather: Remaining mostly cloudy in the south and east through the day with patchy light snow or snow showers, falling increasingly as rain below about 600m, with the best chance of any bright or sunny spells across more western and northwestern fells. Lying snow over higher fells drifting in the strong easterly winds.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Little chance across southern and eastern fells but around 40% across western and northwestern fells.

Visibility: Periods or persistent cloud above 450-600m for southern and eastern fells, but cloud more occasional at times across the west and northwest. Away from cloud, visibility good falling to just a few kilometres in snow and close to zero in drifting and blowing snow.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Forecast for Friday 05 Feb 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	18/22 SE	19/24 E	19/23 E	16/21 E	19/24 E	23/29 E	25/32 E
600	17/25 SE	16/23 E	15/21 SE	14/20 E	14/21 E	16/23 E	18/26 E
300	5/17 E	5/16 SE	7/17 E	6/16 E	6/18 E	7/20 E	8/21 E
Valley	6/17 E	6/17 E	7/16 E	8/17 E	9/20 NE	10/23 NE	11/23 E

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	2/-4	1/-5	0/-6	0/-5	0/-6	-0/-7	-1/-8
600	2/-4	2/-4	2/-3	2/-2	2/-3	2/-4	1/-5
300	4/1	4/2	5/2	5/3	4/2	4/1	3/0
Valley	5/3	6/4	6/4	7/5	6/3	5/2	5/2
Freezing Level*	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	1000m	900m	900m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Very poor conditions at height with cloud and snow cover combining to give very little detail of ground.

Forecast for Saturday 06 Feb 2021

Weather: Rather cloudy with patchy light snow or snow showers continuing, initially as rain below about 600m, the best of any clear or sunny spells again expected over more western fells. Lying snow continuing to drift or blow in the strong easterly or northeasterly winds.

Maximum wind: Easterly or northeasterly 20-25mph, increasing 30mph later in afternoon with gusts around 50mph over ridges and summits, creating a severe chill effect.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Little chance across southern and eastern fells but around 40% across western and northwestern fells.

Visibility: Periods or persistent cloud above 450-600m for eastern fells, but cloud more occasional at times across the west. Away from cloud, visibility good falling to just a few kilometres in snow and close to zero in drifting and blowing snow.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 2 or 3 Celsius at dawn rising to plus 5 Celsius by day
At 800m: Minus 1 Celsius falling to minus 4 Celsius
Freezing level: Around 700m gradually falling to 300m

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Thursday 4 February 2021. Location: Helvellyn Trig Point at 13:45 Full report: We are continuing to provide the Fell Top Reports for people undertaking their daily local exercise during the lockdown. We would like to remind everyone that Government guidance stipulates that people should only exercise locally to where they live. Heavy snow fell overnight on light winds giving a fairly uniform distribution across most aspects of the Lake District fells. At 300m the snow was soft, wet and approximately boot deep. Depths increased dramatically with altitude with an unusual calf to mid thigh deep snow pack found on the Helvellyn plateau. Paths above 600m were totally drifted in and invisible and this combined with whiteout conditions at times made for very slow going. Progress on foot was taking 2-3 times longer than usual. There was a sudden increase in temperature after the snow and heavy rain fell up to altitudes of 800m producing a striking network of drainage channels on the snows surface but also an unstable snowpack. Striding and Swirral Edges are both buried beneath soft and sticky deep snow with flutings and small cornices evident on the northern side of the ridge. Even on the crest the snow was calf to mid thigh deep and any routes on the flanks were fully buried in unstable deep snow. Any snow knocked off the ridge readily formed snow wheels which rapidly increased in size as they disappeared down into the gloom! The headwall on Striding Edge would have been a very high risk option today and the exit to Swirral was marginal with just enough rocks showing to plot a secure route up. There were multiple wet snow, or possible cornice collapse, avalanches on the Red Tarn face of Helvellyn, Catstycam Gully and in Kepple Cove. These had all occurred on steep and craggy NW - NE aspects with the debris fields extending as low as 500m. Any cornices will be incredibly unstable with summit temperatures above freezing and the additional loading from the new snow. Please give them a very wide berth and advise others with less experience to do likewise. Red Tarn was still frozen with approximately 90% of the ice covered in snow. In poor visibility with the majority of landmarks obscured it would easily be possible to wander onto this hazard. Full winter clothing and equipment are required by anyone venturing onto the fells with goggles also being very useful today. An ice axe and crampons are essential for safe travel in the current very challenging conditions. Just a small drop in temperature will quickly refreeze the snow pack giving very serious and icy conditions at all levels. Please be conservative with your plans and know both your limits and also when to turn back. A pandemic is not the time to be pushing your comfort zone. Temperature: plus 0.2 C, Maximum wind speed 23.0 mph, Wind chill: minus 7.4 C, Average wind speed: 13.9 mph

Issued at: 01:40 on Fri 05 Feb 2021

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